



HOLLISTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MAKE ARRESTS IN FOUR SEPARATE CASES OF THEFT/TAMPERING WITH A VEHICLE IN ONE WEEK

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA - *September 18, 2009* – In less than a week, Hollister police officers and a San Benito County Deputy Sheriff have arrested five people in four different incidents of suspected theft or attempted theft from automobiles that occurred throughout the City.

On September 11, 2009, at about 12:30 a.m. officers arrested a 17-year-old male in the 600 block of Gabriele Court for petty theft and tampering with a vehicle after witnesses observed him and another male trying to enter vehicles parked in the area. Officer Bo Leland responded to the report and was able to apprehend the juvenile, while the other male fled the area as officers arrived.

On September 12, 2009, at about 9:42 p.m. Mason Barbee (19) and Steven Ramsey (18) were arrested for tampering with a vehicle in the 1800 block of Severinon Street after being observed by Officer Matt Weiss checking the door handles of vehicles parked in the area. Barbee was also charged with possession of a concealed dagger.

On September 13, 2009 at about 3:00 a.m., San Benito County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Leist contacted a group of juveniles in the Blockbuster Parking lot on Airline Highway. Deputy Leist discovered items in the possession of a 16-year-old male, and in the surrounding area, that appeared to be stolen property. Hollister Police assisted Deputy Leist in locating the owner of the property, who responded to the scene and identified the items as having been stolen. The juvenile was arrested for possession of stolen property.

On September 15, 2009 at approximately 1:30 p.m., Hollister Police Sergeant Ray Wood was on routine patrol in the area of Park and Sally Streets. Sergeant Wood saw three males acting suspiciously, appearing to be looking around a carport. When the men noticed Sergeant Wood's police car, they left the carport and began to walk away. Sergeant Wood contacted them and noticed that one of the men appeared to be extremely nervous. Upon checking the man, Sergeant Wood found some personal items, subsequently identified as having been stolen in at least two previously unreported thefts. The thefts occurred in the 800 & 900 blocks of Somme Avenue, during the early morning hours. The man found in possession of the items, 24-year-old Michael Anthony Cecena, was arrested and booked into San Benito County Jail for possession of stolen property.

The Hollister Police Department reminds community members to always lock their automobiles, no matter where they are parked or how long they will be away from their vehicles. And, police recommend the removal of all items of value, including items that can be used for identity theft, if vehicles are left unattended. The Hollister Police Department encourages community involvement and assistance and reminds citizens they can anonymously provide crime suspect information by calling WeTIP at (800) 78-CRIME.

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